

The Office Action cites Hawks, U.S. Patent No. 3,675,573, which shows a crimp-on edge clip that does not include an integral clip portion. Instead, the edge clip is secured to an attachment bar "A" with screws 40. See Hawks at figure 1. The attachment bar "A" with the edge clip and printing blanket attached, in turn, is mounted in a recess of a press cylinder. See Hawks at col. 4, lines 12-18. The edge clip of the present invention, on the other hand, includes a crimp fitting with an integral clip portion forming a J-bar. This configuration overcomes the drawback of the edge clip shown in Hawks, which requires the additional attachment bar "A" to mount to the press cylinder.

The Office Action also cites Koelsch, U.S. Patent No. 5,410,964, which shows a plastic J-bar that is typically stitched or stapled to an associated carrier sheet. See Koelsch at col. 3, lines 43-48; col. 4, lines 17-19. This type of prior art J-bar is discussed in the Background section of the present application at page 1, line 33 through page 2, line 9. The edge clip of the present invention also overcomes the drawbacks of the Koelsch edge clip, which typically requires a time consuming sewing, stapling or similar process to attach the edge clip to the carrier sheet.

In particular, the independent claims of the present application, as amended, state that the crimp fitting includes an upper flange and a lower flange connected at an intersection and a clip portion integral with the crimp fitting and extending from the intersection of the upper flange with the lower flange. This results in a simple yet effective crimp fitting with an integral clip portion that forms a J-bar when the edge clip is crimped onto a carrier sheet. Additional mounting parts, such as the attachment bar "A" shown in Hawks, are not required.

It should be noted that Koelsch shows a non-crimping J-bar but does not show or suggest a J-bar formed by an integral clip portion extending from the intersection of a crimp fitting. Similarly, Hawks shows a crimp fitting, but does not show or suggest an integral clip portion extending from the intersection of the crimp fitting. Moreover, Hawks teaches that an attachment bar "A" is needed to hold the crimp fitting to the print cylinder, which the present invention obviates. Accordingly, these references do not anticipate the present invention, and cannot establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, because each and every element of the claimed invention is not shown or suggested in the references. MPEP § 2143.03.

It should be further noted that claims 5, 10, 14 and 18 of the present application recite a print carrier sheet having crimp-on edge clips with integral J-bars attached to two opposing longitudinal edges of the carrier sheet, with the J-bars configured to removably interface with opposing rails of a lock-up device carried by a print roll. Neither Koelsch nor Hawks shows or suggests this configuration. Instead, Koelsch describes elastic straps 44 attached to the edge of the carrier sheet opposing the plastic J-bar. See Koelsch at col. 3, lines 9-15. And Hawks describes the use of leading and trailing blanket bars that each fit into suitable recesses or openings in a press cylinder. See Hawks at col. 1, lines 14-20.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the preceding amendment and remarks are completely responsive to the Official Action mailed May 10, 2004, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Please note that an extension of time is not required because the present response has been filed within three months from the mailing data of the Official Action. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call Mike Mehrman at (404) 497-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



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